

Notes from Meeting with the Crow Nation, Tuesday, March 01, 2016

Present at the meeting: Emerson Bull Chief, THPO and Rebecca Nathan, Archaeology and GIS Manager

Present from EPA: Darcy O'Connor, OPRA Action ARA; Kim Varelik, ORC acting a Tribal Policy Advisor and Valois Shea, UIC Program permit writer and lead for Dewey-Burdock Project.

Two representatives from the Crow Nation participated in the Tribal Survey. Mr. Bull Chief visited the site during one of the NRC Tribal Consultation Meetings. Powertech paid each Tribe \$10,000 to perform the field work. The Crow representatives looked at sites already identified and submitted a report to the NRC contractor (Beaver Creek?). Mr. Bull Chief believed it was good to have Native Americans on the ground doing the survey because they are able to identify sites that non- Native American archaeologists might miss. The thought process for the survey was pretty good. The Crow representatives surveyed the topographically high areas looking mainly for fasting beds. The Northern Cheyenne walked the whole site.

The Ross project damaged some cultural sites. Mr. Bull Chief would like to see more cultural monitoring during construction and drilling so that doesn't happen at Dewey-Burdock. Uranium companies should have more Native American monitors on site. Ms. Nathan said all the Crow cultural monitors are all trained on what to do if an undiscovered cultural site is discovered during construction/drilling.

Abandoned mines: where are they in relation to the proposed wellfields?

Are we going to use/look at the work NRC did for their 106 process?

NRC mandate is national security. Mr. Bull Chief is more comfortable working with the EPA since our mandate is environmental protection, which is more in line with Tribes' interests.

Two main concerns:

- 1) Groundwater contamination: how will the UIC permits prevent it and what will they require if there is contamination. He would like to declare the groundwater to be a cultural resource under the NHPA. It actually is. There are a number of ceremonies and cures that involve water. Earth Wind Fire and Water are the four sacred elements.
- 2) How will cultural sites be protected?

He would like to see more of a consultation process for the 404 permitting process where surface water channels are impacted. Darcy said that the Army Core of Engineers handle that permitting process. EPA does the enforcement action when the requirements are violated.

Follow-up:

Review the NRC PA to see what the cultural monitoring requirements are.